



## Senate Update for the Week of December 17-21, 2007

### Last Week in the Senate

On December 17, 2007, the Senate voted to invoke cloture on the FISA Amendments Act of 2007 (H.R. 2248) by a vote of 76 to 10. (Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's [press release](#) regarding H.R. 2248)

*\*Note: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid pulled the bill from the floor on December 17, 2007.*

On December 18, 2007, the Senate took a series of votes on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2008 (OMNIBUS, H.R. 2764).

The most anticipated vote was an amendment offered by Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), which would provide \$70 billion for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amendment passed 70 to 25 and ensured that the OMNIBUS would not be faced with a Presidential veto.

The Senate then passed H.R. 2764 as amended by a vote of 76 to 17 with one Senator voting present. ([Record Vote Number 441](#))

Also on December 18, 2007, the Senate confirmed John Daniel Tinder, of Indiana, to be a U.S. Circuit Court Judge by a vote of 93 to 0.

Item of Note: The Senate did not recess at the conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Instead, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has scheduled pro forma sessions of the Senate. This rarely used Senate procedure is a method of ensuring the President does not make recess appointments or use the pocket veto.

*\*Note: No Senate business will be conducted during the pro forma sessions.*